

**Ambassador's Remarks for Annual U.S.-UK Reception
for the Caspian Oil and Gas Show**

June 2, 2015

Welcome to everyone, and thank you for coming this evening.

Let me first of all thank the sponsors of this event who are listed on our banner. Without your support this event would not be possible.

The range of companies on the banner also makes clear something else: commercial enterprises and the people working for them play a vital role in exploring, developing, and moving energy from producers to consumers around the world.

These companies have tremendous reserves of experience, knowledge, and technical expertise which they can – and do – bring to bear in Azerbaijan, the UK, the U.S. and other countries around the world.

In this regard, let me restate a key point that President Aliyev made again this morning: Azerbaijan's energy sector is one of the foundations for this country's independence and economic security.

Azerbaijan plays a key role as well in ensuring energy security, and thus helps boost the wellbeing of people in the region, in the rest of Europe, and in the world. Recent developments have served to remind us of the importance of energy security and that governments and citizens cannot take it for granted. But in a way, we have been ahead of the curve.

We have been working together with Azerbaijan for over 20 years, long before the current headlines, to support regional, European, and global energy security in both big ways and small, including hosting this reception together with our British colleagues to mark the Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference every June for the past twenty years.

If we look at Azerbaijan's history over the past 100 plus years, it has repeatedly demonstrated its importance and ability to play this role as a reliable energy producer and supplier. And so I am excited to be here to contribute to the next

phases in Azerbaijan's energy evolution, to be working closely with Azerbaijan's government, with SOCAR, and with other companies here and in the region.

And in that spirit, let me thank you for your attention, and express my wish that each of you finds this evening enjoyable and productive and that this year's Caspian Oil and Gas Show will be another success.